

Town Manager's Office Town of Mansfield

Date: April 24, 2017
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

Council Business

- *Annual Town Meeting* – The Town of Mansfield will hold its annual town meeting for budget consideration on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. Residents and property owners should bring a form of identification to the annual meeting to verify their eligibility to vote. A sign language interpreter will be available for citizens who are hearing impaired as well as transportation for elderly and disabled electors. With advance reservations, childcare will be available for children ages 3 to 12 at no charge from 6:45 PM through the end of the meeting. If you are an elector attending the Town Meeting and need childcare, transportation, or sign language services, please contact the Department of Human Services at 860-429-3315. Additional information regarding the budget is available online at www.mansfieldct.gov.
- *Region 19 Budget Referendum* – On May 2, 2017, Region 19 will hold its budget referendum. Voting will take place in the Council Chamber from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office, in person only.
- *Public Information Session on the Council's Adopted Budget* – Town Council will hold a Public Information Session on the Council's Adopted Budget at 7:00 PM on May 3, 2017 in the Council Chamber. The public is invited to learn more about the adopted budget for the upcoming year.
- *UCONN Spring Weekend* – I would like to thank all of our Town, State and UCONN public safety personnel, as well as UCONN students and staff, for a peaceful UCONN Spring Weekend. Not too many years ago, we would see large parties of 15,000-20,000 in parking lots and apartment complexes adjacent to campus, as well as other problematic parties in the neighborhoods. These events were marked by substance abuse, property damage, fighting, sexual misconduct, and other violence. We have come a long way since then; let's keep this success going in future years!

Departmental Reports

- Town Manager's Office
 - *Connecticut Water Report* - Connecticut Water is pleased to announce that its reservoirs throughout Connecticut are all at 100% of their capacity. Although precipitation in the first quarter of 2017 was slightly below average according to the Northeast Climate Center, reservoirs were replenished, but at a slower than normal rate. Craig J. Patla, Connecticut Water's V.P. – Service Delivery, says that with supplies at normal levels, the company is lifting its water supply advisory, but continues to encourage customers to use water wisely. Mr. Patla also notes that groundwater resources, which are more difficult to gauge than reservoirs, are still recovering from the drought conditions. Connecticut Water, through its 2016 Water Drop Challenge, saw first-hand how effective customers can be at conserving water when they set their mind to it. In 2016, nearly 5,000 customers enrolled in the Water Drop Challenge to reduce their billed water consumption by 10% over the prior year. The company provided them with monthly conservation tips and the results were impressive. More than 60% of these customers reduced their water usage and in total saved more than 30 million gallons of water, enough to supply 500 households with water for an entire year. The tips that successfully helped customers meet the Water Drop Challenge are available at Connecticut Water's website: www.ctwater.com/conservation.
 - *Employee Announcements* – Please join me in congratulating our recently hired and promoted employees:
 - Sam Ridzon joins the Animal Control team as an Assistant Animal Control Officer. She was appointed on February 3. Samantha grew up on a local farm and is an avid

outdoorswoman. As an Assistant Animal Control Officer some of her duties include responding to calls for service for pets, investigating complaints, staffing the Mansfield Animal Shelter, and assisting with the annual dog licensing survey.

- On March 16, we appointed Michele Carroll to the Administrative Analyst position in the Fire Department. Michele has a Master's degree in Public Administration from UCONN. Prior to joining us in Mansfield, Michele served in various capacities for the Town of Westerly, RI, the Town of Enfield, and the Town of Plainville. Her experience in local government budgeting and human resources will prove valuable for Fire and Emergency Services.
- I am very pleased to announce the appointment Sara-Ann Chaine as our next Town Clerk, following Mary Stanton's retirement in late May. Sara-Ann has served as the Executive Assistant in the Town Manager's Office for the past 13 years. Her extensive experience supporting and working with various constituencies, including the Town Council, staff, and residents, will be instrumental in her new role. While working in Mansfield, she earned her Master's degree in Organizational Management from Eastern Connecticut State University. Sara-Ann will officially begin as Town Clerk on May 27th; we have initiated the search for her successor as Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – On Saturday, May 6, Storrs Farmers Market will kick off its 23rd outdoor season. Featuring locally-grown vegetables, meats, cheeses, and more, Storrs Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM from May through Thanksgiving. Learn more at: storrsfarmersmarket.org.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, April 25, 2017, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, April 25, 2017, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Climate Action Task Force, April 25, 2017, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, April 26, 2017, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, April 26, 2017, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, April 27, 2017, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, April 27, 2017, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Transportation Advisory Committee, April 27, 2017, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- PZC and IWA, May 1, 2017, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, May 2, 2017, 6:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, May 2, 2017, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Public Information Session on the Council's Adopted Budget**, May 3, 2017, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, May 4, 2017, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board Meeting, May 4, 2017, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, May 8, 2017, 6:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Town Council Meeting, May 8, 2017, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building**
- **Annual Town Meeting**, May 9, 2017, 7:00 PM, Auditorium, Mansfield Middle School

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*